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CURRENT LITERATURE

BOOK REVIEWS

A textbook of botany

FRITCH and SALISBURY¹ have prepared a sequel to their *Introduction to the study of plants*. In the more elementary volume the microscopic details were omitted, and therefore the present volume supplies these details for those who wish to know more about plants. Although the anatomical structure and reproduction of plants are the main subjects, the authors have included enough physiology and ecology to relate structure to function, and to indicate the responses of structures. In connection with reproduction, also, there is a supplementary chapter on heredity and evolution. It is interesting to note that the authors have abandoned the old method of types, and have treated groups as a whole, which certainly results in a better conception of the organization of the plant kingdom. They have also developed the economic contact when appropriate, stating that the purpose is "to combat the frequent ignorance of botanical students with respect to the economic aspects of their subject." This tendency is developing strongly in all the sciences, and is to be commended as developing a more general appreciation of science, and also as helping to do away with the old artificial distinction between "pure" and "applied" science.

The first part of the volume, devoted to anatomy, is an excellent general presentation of the subject, and one that is needed. There has been a tendency in the more recent texts to deal chiefly with the anatomy of the reproductive structures, with perhaps some supplementary information in reference to vascular anatomy, omitting the numerous other structures that enter into the structure of plants. In the second part, the life histories of the great groups are considered in evolutionary sequence, relating the facts to conditions of living and to future progress.

The volume is well illustrated, and should prove to be a valuable addition to the botanical texts for English students.—J. M. C.

Principes de botanique

It is a gratification to botanists, long familiar with the work of CHODAT, to greet the third edition of his well known textbook.² The first edition

¹ FRITCH, F. E., and SALISBURY, E. J., *An introduction to the structure and reproduction of plants*. 8vo. pp. viii+458. *figs.* 230. London: G. Bell & Sons. 1920.

² CHODAT, R., *Principes de botanique*. Troisième édition, revue et augmentée. pp. x+878. *figs.* 921. Genève: Édition Atar. 1921.